

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A force-transmission element for an engine compartment having an engine which is displaced in the engine compartment when the severity of an impact exceeds a certain limit, the element being incorporated into a force path introduced into the engine compartment by the impact and having at least two different levels, wherein means which initiate a transition from one level to a further level according to a position of the engine in the engine compartment are provided.

20. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means initiate the transition when the engine impinges upon a structure defining the engine compartment.

21. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means initiate the transition when the engine impinges upon an engine compartment rear bulk.

22. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means initiate the transition pyrotechnically.

23. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means initiate the transition through material failure.

24. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the element is arranged in front of the engine in the direction of introduction of the force.

25. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the element comprises two impact plates spaced at an interval from one another.

26. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 25, wherein the element further comprises bars arranged between the impact plates.

27. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 26, wherein the bars are arranged at a specific angle to the impact plates.

28. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 25, wherein the impact plates are fitted in mountings.

29. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 25, wherein one of the two impact plates is of a two-part construction.

30. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 29, wherein the two-part construction includes two parts which are detachably connected to one another.

31. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 30, wherein the two parts are connected to one another by a separating bolt.

32. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the element it has at least two intersecting bars.

33. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 32, wherein the two bars are pivotally connected to one another.

34. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 32, wherein the intersecting bars are connected to one another by a parting bar at outward point ends of the interesting bars.

35. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 34, wherein the parting bar has a two-part construction, and wherein the two-part construction includes two parts which are detachably connected to one another.

36. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 35, wherein the two parts are connected to one another by a separating bolt.

37. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 20, wherein the means initiate the transition pyrotechnically.

38. (New) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 20, wherein the means initiate the transition through material failure.